

U.S.S.R. Accepts U.S. Proposal for Direct Communication Link

Following is the text of a U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency statement read to news correspondents on April 5 by a Department of State spokesman.

The United States welcomes the Soviet Government's acceptance of the American proposal for improved communications between the Soviet Union and the United States. In order to reduce the risk of war occurring through failure of communications, the United States has sought to reach agreements on measures which would improve communications between governments.

The specific purpose of a direct teletype link between the Soviet Union and the United States would be to have a channel available for immediate use during times of crisis. On its part, the United States would expect to establish a central terminal point in Washington. From this terminal point, the President can always be reached immediately. Since there will be technical details to agree upon before the teletype link can be established, the United States anticipates that there will be private technical talks with the Soviet Union on this matter in the near future.

* For text of a U.S. statement of Mar. 19, see BULLETIN of Apr. 8, 1963, p. 529.